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Authority 11ND 963016
By NA NARA Date 6/11/02

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PA/HO Department of State
E.O. 12958, as amended
June 21, 2006

DEF 19-8 US-Jran



Department of State

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TELEGRAM
ACTION COPY

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 0189
BT
~~TOP SECRET~~ TEHRAN 661

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1972 NOV 4

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NODIS REVIEW

Cat. A - Caption removed,
transferred to O/FADRC
Cat. E - Transferred to O/FADRC
with additional access
controlled by S/S
Cat. C - Caption and custody
retained by S/S

Reviewed by: Ambassador W. Witman II

Date: 9/10 1975

SUBJECT: OPERATION ENHANCE PLUS

REF: (A) STUUE 199893
GHB) TEHRAN 6520

1. WE WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE FURTHER, AS SUGGESTED
IN REF (A), HOW WE CAN CONSTRUCTIVELY RESPOND TO SHAH'S
MAGNANIMOUS ACTION IN SUPPORTING OUR EFFORTS IN VIETNAM FOR
PEACE SETTLEMENT. OUR VIEWS WILL BE SUBMITTED SHORTLY IN SEPTIEL.

2. HOWEVER, WE HAVE MORE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM WHICH IS TO RESTORE
ATMOSPHERE AND SPIRIT OF GOOD WILL AND COOPERATION GENERATED
BY SHAH'S FORTHCOMING RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST, ALL OF WHICH
HAVE BEEN BADLY SHATTERED BY WHAT FROM HERE APPEARS TO BE
ASTONISHING VIOLATION OF SHAH'S CONFIDENCE AND UNDERSTANDING
WE HAD URGED ON THE SHAH REGARDING SECURITY ASPECTS OF THIS
EXERCISE.

3. MESSAGES FROM WASHINGTON ON THIS SUBJECT HAVE STRESSED
HIGHLY CLASSIFIED NATURE OF THIS OPERATION AND HAVE INSTRUCTED
US TO IMPRESS UPON SHAH AND IRANIAN AUTHORITIES THAT MATTER BE
CLOSELY HELD. SHAH AND GENERAL KHATAMI OF IIAF READ AY CONCURRED
ANJREVMYRED APPROPRIATE COVER STORY FOR USE WITH IRANIAN
PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN OPERATION.

4. IN ADDITION, WE CONVEYED TO APPROPRIATE IRANIAN AUTHORITIES
PRESS GUIDANCE SET FORTH IN STATE 195418 WHICH IN VIEW OF TIGHT
SECURITY OF THIS EXERCISE WE SAID WOULD HOLD UNTIL WE WERE
NOTIFIED OTHERWISE. ON BASIS OF EXPERIENCE HERE IN THDLE
MATTERS WE WERE REASONABLY SATISFIED THAT OPERATION QENHANCE
PLUS WOULD NOT SURFACE IN PRESS HERE, BUT WE REMAINED
CONCERNED IN THIS ASPECT OF OPERATION BECAUSE, AS SHAH HAS
MENTIONED ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION IN RECENT YEARS, "WE CAN
MAINTAIN YOUR SECURITY, BUT CAN YOU?"

5. QUESTION ON SECURITY OF OPERATION ENHANCE PLUS AROSE
LATE EVENING FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, WHEN ON ISNSTRUCTIONS FROM

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-2- TEHRAN6611, NOVEMBER 4

SHAH COURT MINISTER ALAM CALLED AMBASSADOR REGARDING REPORT
SHAH HAD JUST RECEIVED TO EFFECT NEWS REPORT ABOUT
THIS OPERATION BREAKING IN WASHINGTON. ALAM WANTED AMBASSADOR
TO KNOW SHAH WAS GREATLY DISTURBED OVER THIS DEVELOPMENT WHICH
HE ASSUMED WAS BASED ON LEAK. AMBASSADOR INFORMED ALAM THAT
AS FAR AS WE KNEW, PRESS GUIDANCE AS OUTLINED STATE 195418
REMAINED IN EFFECT AND, FURTHER, WE HAD NO REPORTS FROM
WASHINGTON TO SUGGEST ANY CHANGE. ALAM CALLED BACK SHORTLY
THEREAFTER TO REPORT THAT SHAH HAD DECIDED NOT PURSUE MATTER
AT THAT TIME WITH ANY ANNOUNCED BY GOI BECAUSE HE DID NOT
WISH TO REACT TO WHAT WAS STILL UNCONFIRMED AND POSSIBLY
TENDACIOUS PRESS REPORTS.

6. WE ARE SPELLING THIS OUT AS BACKGROUND TO EXPLAIN OUR
SHOCK AND CONSTERNATION IN FINDING IN MORNING NOVEMBER 4 TRAFFIC
ROUTINE UNCLASSIFIED MESSAGES INDICATING THAT IRAN'S ROLE IN
OPERATION ENHANCE PLUS AND THAT OF SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES
WAS ANNOUNCED BY OFFICIAL DOD SPOKESMAN WITHOUT ANY PRIOR
CONSULTATION WITH IRAN OR WARNING TO US. AT A TIME WHEN WE ARE
SEEKING STRENGTHEN SENSE OF COLLABORATION IN OUR MILITARY AND
OTHER RELATIONS WITH IRAN AND SUCCESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED BY SHAH'S
FORTHCOMING RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST FOR HELP ON F-5 MATTER, AND
FURTHER WHEN WE ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING WAYS TO RESPOND TO SHAH'S
HELPFUL ACTION, WE ARE NOW PLACED IN EXTREMELY AWKWARD POSITION
OF HAVING IN EFFECT VIOLATED UNILATERALLY CONFIDENCE WE URGED
UPON SHAH AND WITH WHICH HE READILY AGREED. SHAH, WHO IS
SENSITIVE ABOUT THESE MATTERS, CAN BE EXPECTED TAKE THIS AS
PERSONAL AFFRONT. AS BUT ONE INDICATION OF STORM WE FACE ON
THIS MATTER, DCM, IN ABSENCE OF AMBASSADOR WHO OUT OF TEHRAN
TODAY WITH SHAH FOR INAUGURAL CEREMONIES, WAS CALLED URGENTLY
TO MFA AND ASKED ABOUT WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS "VERY UNFORTUNATE
COMMENTS BY DOD SPOKESMEN WITH EXTREMELY SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS
FOR IRAN."

7. IN SHORT, AFTER BEFITTING FROM IRAN'S SENSE OF COOPERATION
WE HAVE TURNED AROUND AND PUT THIS COUNTRY ON SPOT. AS
MATTER OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE AND URGENCY WE REQUEST CLARIFICATION
OF WHAT FACTORS PROMPTED DOD TO DEPART FROM ACCEPTED PRESS GUIDANCE

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-3- TEHRAN 6611, NOVEMBER 4

AND UNILATERALLY AND PUBLICLY MENTION IRAN'S ROLE IN F-5 TRANSFER TO VIETNAM. WE ALSO REQUEST HAVING ALL OTHER PERTINENT FACTORS BEARING ON MATTER SO THAT WE CAN GIVE SHAH AS CREDIBLE EXPLANATION AS POSSIBLE FOR WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN INCREDIBLE GOOF.

8. IN MEANTIME, IN ANSWER TO PRESS INQUIRIES WE ARE TAKING LINE THAT WE KNOW NOTHING MORE THAN WAS RELEASED IN WASHINGTON AND THAT LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS SHOULD ADDRESS GOI FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION.

9. NEW SUBJECT. NOW THAT OPERATION ENHANCE PLUS IS BASICALLY IN PUBLIC REALM, CAN MESSAGES REGARDING THIS SUBJECT BE TAKEN OUT OF TOP SECRET AND NODIS CLASSIFICATIONS?

FARLAND

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